

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 4 and 7, amend claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9, all without prejudice, and add new claims 24 – 39, as indicated on the following listing of all the claims in the present application after this Amendment:

1. (currently amended) In a system including a host and a plurality of sockets in which electronic circuit cards are mechanically ~~insertable~~ inserted and electrically ~~connectable~~ connected, the circuit cards containing re-writeable non-volatile semiconductor memory, a method of operating the system, comprising:

transferring data between the host and the memory of a card addressed by a unique card address sent by the host over a command circuit ~~when connected to all of~~ between the host and the plurality of sockets, said data being transferred through a data circuit also connected ~~to all of~~ between the host and the plurality of sockets, and

normally transferring commands that control operation of the electronic circuit cards from the host to an individual card over the command circuit ~~when connected to all of~~ between the host and the plurality of sockets except when unique addresses of the individual cards are being defined by communication between the host and the cards one at a time over the command circuit that is ~~alternatively~~ alternately connected to one of the plurality of sockets at a time.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
storing within at least some of the electronic circuit cards a characteristic of a number of data contacts thereof through which data are ~~transferable~~ transferable in parallel,

causing the host to read the stored characteristic from each of the cards inserted into the plurality of sockets, and

wherein transferring data between the host and an addressed card includes transferring data over one or more of a plurality of data lines connecting the host with each of the plurality of sockets according to the characteristic stored in the addressed card.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the host provides a clock signal to each of the plurality of sockets to operate electronic circuit cards inserted therein with a common clock frequency regardless of the number of lines over which data are simultaneously transferred with the individual cards that are inserted into the sockets.

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) In a system including a host and at least one socket in which at least one of a plurality of electronic circuit cards is removably ~~insertable~~ inserted at one time to form an electrical connection with contacts of the card, the circuit cards containing re-writeable non-volatile semiconductor memory, a method of operating the system, comprising:

storing within the individual electronic circuit cards a characteristic of a number of data contacts thereof through which data are ~~transferrable~~ transferable in parallel,

causing the host to read the stored characteristic from said at least one card inserted into said at least one socket, and

transferring data between the host and the memory of said at least one inserted card over one or more of a plurality of lines connecting the host with said at least one socket according to the characteristic stored in ~~the individual~~ said at least one inserted card.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the host provides a clock signal to said at least one ~~plurality of sockets~~ socket to operate said at least one inserted card with a common clock frequency regardless of the number of lines over which data are simultaneously transferred therewith.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 5, wherein the host determines whether said one inserted card is a MMC type, and, if so, transfers data over only one of the plurality of data lines to said at least one socket.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim [[7]] 5, wherein transferring data between the host and said at least one inserted card includes directing individual bits of a serial data stream in sequence through a number of said data lines corresponding to the characteristic stored in said one inserted card.

10 – 23. (cancelled)

24. (new) In a system including a host and a plurality of sockets in which electronic circuit cards are removably insertable, a method of initializing operation with one or more circuit cards inserted into a corresponding one or more of the plurality of sockets, wherein:

an individual card address is communicated between each of the one or more circuit cards and the host over a plurality of circuits individually connected between the host and a different one of the one or more of the plurality of sockets in which the one or more circuit cards are inserted, and

communications between the host and the one or more inserted cards thereafter individually take place over at least one circuit connected in common to the plurality of sockets and the one or more cards inserted therein by use of the individual addresses of the one or more inserted cards.

25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein the electronic circuit cards include re-writeable non-volatile semiconductor memory with which the host causes data to be written and read by commands sent over said at least one common circuit.

26. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein the individual card address is communicated between each of the one or more circuit cards inserted into the one or more of the plurality of sockets and the host by the individual circuit card first internally generating and storing its individual address, and the host thereafter reads the stored address.

27. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the host additionally, after reading the stored address of the individual inserted card, compares the read address with addresses read

from others of the one or more circuit cards and, if unique, stores the read address for use during communications with the individual inserted card but, if not unique, asks the individual inserted card to generate another individual address.

28. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the electronic circuit cards include re-writeable non-volatile semiconductor memory with which the host causes data to be written and read by commands sent over said at least one common circuit.

29. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein the individual circuit card internally generates its individual address.

30. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein the individual card address is communicated between each of the one or more circuit cards inserted into the one or more of the plurality of sockets and the host by the host assigning a unique address and writing the assigned address into each of the one or more circuit cards over the plurality of circuits that are individually connected between the host and a different one of the one or more of the plurality of sockets.

31. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the electronic circuit cards include re-writeable non-volatile semiconductor memory with which the host causes data to be written and read by commands sent over said at least one common circuit.

32. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein at least one of the one or more circuit cards is inserted into at least one of the plurality of sockets by mating a set of nine externally accessible electrical contacts on the card with a set of nine conductive pins within the socket.

33. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein at least one of the one or more circuit cards is inserted into at least one of the plurality of sockets by mating a set of less than nine externally accessible electrical contacts on the card with less than all of a set of nine conductive pins within the socket.

34. (new) A memory card, comprising:
an enclosure,
a re-writeable non-volatile semiconductor memory within the enclosure,
a plurality of electrical contacts accessible from outside of the enclosure and operably connected with the memory therein, a number of the electrical contacts being connected for transferring data to and from the memory,
a storage device within the enclosure that stores an address of the card that is readable from outside of the enclosure through one or more of the electrical contacts, and
a number generator within the enclosure that generates and writes the card address into the storage device during initialization of the card.

35. (new) The memory card of claim 34, wherein the number generator additionally generates and writes the card address into the storage device in response to a command received through at least one of the electrical contacts.

36. (new) The memory card of claim 34, comprising a second storage device within the enclosure that stores an indication of the number of the electrical contacts that are connected for transferring data to and from the memory and which is readable from outside of the enclosure through at least one of the electrical contacts.

37. (new) The memory card of claim 36, wherein the number of electrical contacts that are connected for transferring data to and from the memory is one, two or four.

38. (new) A memory card, comprising:
an enclosure,
a re-writeable non-volatile semiconductor memory within the enclosure,
a plurality of electrical contacts accessible from outside of the enclosure and operably connected with the memory therein, a number of the electrical contacts being connected for transferring data to and from the memory,

a storage device within the enclosure that stores an indication of the number of the electrical contacts that are connected for transferring data to and from the memory and which is readable from outside of the enclosure through at least one of the electrical contacts.

39. (new) The memory card of claim 38, wherein the number of electrical contacts that are connected for transferring data to and from the memory is one, two or four.